GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
ARSENIC CONTAMINATION IN GROUND WATER
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted in some districts of Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of United Nations Children`s Fund (UNICEF) regarding arsenic contamination in ground water;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether similar tests have been conducted/ are proposed to be conducted in other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these tests are likely to be conducted; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the contamination of ground water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.27 FOR REPLY ON 20.10.2008 REGARDING ARSENIC CONTAMINATION IN GROUND WATER

(a) to (e) As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has conducted survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Survey has revealed the problem of arsenic contamination in 20 districts. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has also reported occurrence of arsenic in ground water from certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam.

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water contamination include:-

(i) Exploration conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic contaminants.

(ii) Technical guidance provided by CGWB to the State agencies in tackling the problems of water quality and capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.

(iii) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.